

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

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- \*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
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# TRICOLORED HERON AT CONE MARSH

THOMAS H. KENT

On 29 April 1989 at 10:50 a.m., I was on the dike at the middle of the east pond at Cone Marsh, Louisa County, when I saw a heron flying over the trees to the south. It appeared too small for a great blue, so I put my glasses on it and immediately noticed the white belly and long dark neck and head. The bird flew over the dike in front of me, across the pond and lit in a small tree. After a few minutes it flew northwest to the corner of the marsh. I did not see it land. Back at the car at 11:04, I dictated the following, "A dark-fronted, white bellied heron flew over. Dark from head to mid-breast, and all white from there to tail. The bill was blue, feet yellow. As the bird turned, I could see an all slate-blue upperwing, shinier blue in the coverts. From underneath, the wing coverts were white and primaries dark blue. The tail was about the same color as the upperwing surface. It was a medium-sized heron, about the size of a Little Blue Heron." The bird had a long thin neck, held crooked in flight and straightened briefly when it landed. I was not able to tell if there was white in front of the neck, and I did not see any plumes. The sky was overcast, and I estimated that the bird came as close as 50 yards as I viewed in with a 10x binocular.



As I made my way back across the dike, I met the Shaffers. I told them about the bird, dictated notes at the car, searched briefly for the bird at the north end of the marsh, and drove to Lone Tree to call other birders. After I had returned and searched the north end on foot, I found a note on my car from Dick Shaffer, telling me that they found the heron and got a good look at it. Over the next two days, many people searched for the bird, but it was not seen again. Months later, I was intrigued to find on the cover of *The Loon* a picture of a Tricolored Heron that had arrived in Bloomington, Minnesota, on 4 May 1989 (Hertzel 1989). The same bird?

Although there are no previous records of Tricolored Heron in Iowa, this species has long been expected (Dinsmore, et al. 1984) and has occurred in all states touching Iowa (Figure 1). Although I had thought about ways to find this species in Iowa, I had never considered it an identification problem when I had seen it in the South and was not expecting to see it on this morning. I identified the bird instantly, looked at all parts of the bird as it flew over, dictated notes five minutes after observing the bird, and then became preoccupied with finding it again for others. The bird later became an identification problem when the Records Committee failed to accept the record on a split vote. This had the positive effect of forcing me to learn all I could about this species and similar species. I submitted the results of my research to the Records Committee, and the record was later accepted.

The field guides have very brief descriptions of Tricolored Heron, do not indicate any identification problems, and do not discuss aging. Peterson (1980) provides a typical description, "Note the contrasting white belly, the key field mark of this very slender, dark heron. Rump white." The "white rump" bothered me as I had not seen it in spite of having a good view of the upperparts, and I did not find the white rump illustrated in any of the many books I ended up looking at. In the spring of 1990 in Texas, I did, however, have a chance to look at a number of Tricolored Herons. I saw the white rump on some, but not others. Another distressing point was my failure to describe white line down the foreneck. I do not know whether I saw this mark and failed to record it, whether I failed to look for it, or whether it was not visible. I

found some photographs I had taken in Florida in which this mark is not conspicuous even on birds at close range that were facing the camera. I was not at all surprised not to see plumes, as these may be held down in flight or may be inconspicuous in one-year-old birds. In hindsight, I would have looked at the size and shape of the bill better, concentrated more on the foreneck and rump, and recorded the leg color (the feet were yellower than the legs). I was pleased that I had noted the white underwing coverts sharply contrasting with blue flight feathers, a mark that I had not recalled from my previous experiences.

The only species mentioned as an alternative possibility was an immature Little Blue Heron. According to Palmer (1962), the molt of Little Blue Herons from white to blue-gray begins in late first winter (prealternate I molt) and involves head, neck, and mantle feathers, continues from early in the second year (prebasic II molt) involving the same areas and inner secondaries, and is completed in late winter or early spring of the second year (prealternate II molt). The pattern in the second year with white primaries and variable blue-gray wing coverts is opposite that of Tricolored Heron, which has dark primaries and white underwing coverts. I have not seen one of these "calico" or "pied" herons, but according to Eckert and Karalus (1981), "the white birds get blotched, speckled, patched, and spotted with blue--a phenomenon unique among the herons." In Mississippi, Toups and Jackson (1987) note "First-year birds are white; second-year birds are mottled (called 'calico'); these immatures generally outnumber adults at all seasons." To my knowledge, Little Blue Herons seen in the upper Midwest in spring have the adult, all-blue plumage, but even if a calico bird were to appear, it would not have the neat, anatomically uniform markings of a Tricolored Heron.

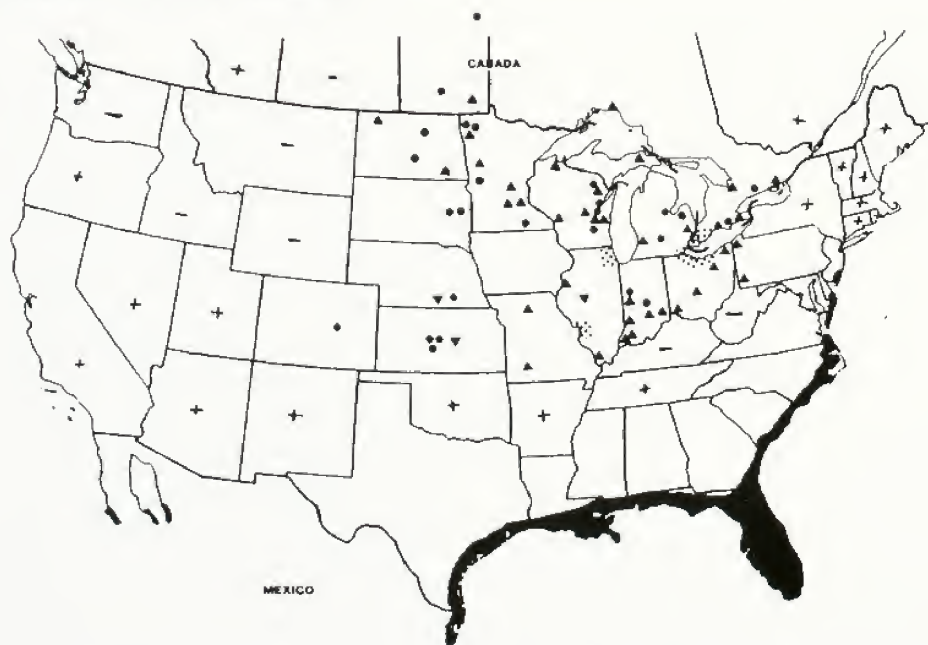


Figure 1. Upper Midwest records of Tricolored Heron through 1989. Triangles point up for spring, down for fall records. Large dots are summer records, stipled areas have more than 10 records. Black area is normal range. Plus signs are states with one or more records, minus signs are states with no records.

Someone suggested to me that there might be other herons in the world that were similar to Tricolored Heron. Of the 59 herons of the world (Hancock and Elliott 1978), I found only three white-bellied herons; they look quite different from Tricolored Heron and are native to Australia, the East Indies, and southern Asia.

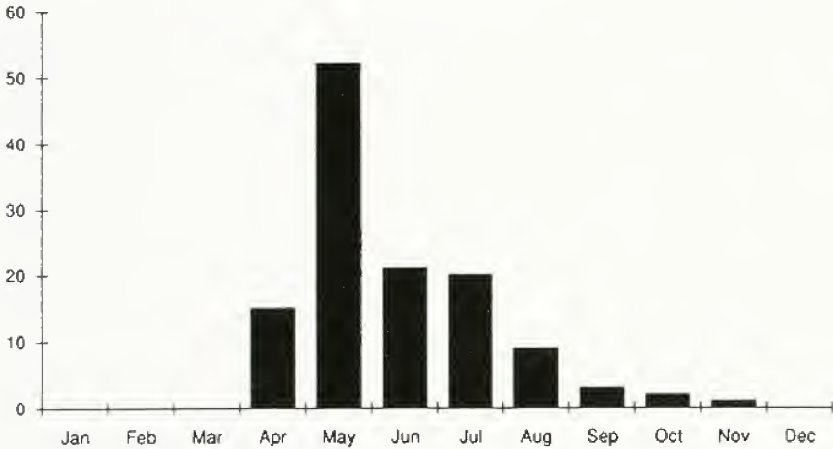


Figure 2. Midwest Tricolored Heron records by month.

One Records Committee reviewer asserted that Tricolored Heron is unlikely in Iowa. I plotted all the records that I could find in states and provinces away from the normal range (Figure 1). Tricolored Herons are seen almost every year in Illinois across from St. Louis and near Chicago and at the eastern end of Lake Erie. There are also many records from Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and scattered records to the west of Iowa. I was surprised to learn that Tricolored Heron occurs most commonly in the Midwest in spring with some birds lingering into summer and a few into fall (Figure 2). In contrast to Little Blue Heron, juvenile Tricolored Herons

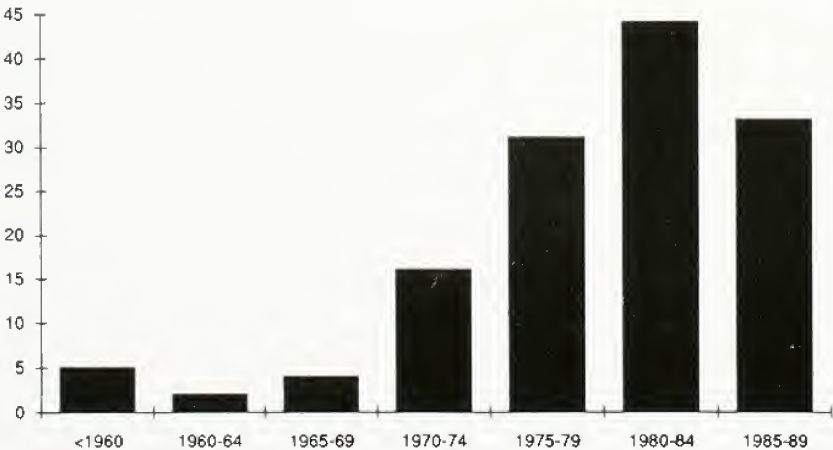


Figure 3. Midwest Tricolored Heron records by year.

are not seen in the upper Midwest in late summer. Some of the spring Midwest birds have been described as one-year-old birds and others may have been, as some birds retain juvenile features over winter into the next spring and others do not. Full breeding plumage is seen only on the breeding grounds and even then it is short lived.

The movement of Tricolored Herons into the upper Midwest is a recent phenomenon, because there are few records before 1970 and a sharp increase since then (Figure 3).

Although the Tricolored Heron was a long-overdue, easily identified bird, it provided a valuable educational experienced birder for me.

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# BIRDING CONE MARSH

CAROL THOMPSON

Cone Marsh State Wildlife Management Area is located in northwestern Louisa County on a lowland between the Iowa and Cedar rivers. This lowland area, called the Lake Calvin Basin, was thought to be the lakebed of a glacial lake formed when Illinoian (300,000 years before present) ice advanced into eastern Iowa and blocked these southeast-flowing rivers. More recent studies have shown that the landscape is actually composed of younger Wisconsinan and Holocene (less than 30,000 years before present) deposits. Alluvial features such as broad floodplains, terraces, and dunes are the dominant landforms, creating large areas of flat terrain. The marsh, located in the Iowa River floodplain, was formed from a series of abandoned meander loops (oxbow lakes).



The 701-acre wildlife area was acquired by the state in 1960 with smaller purchases in 1968 and 1969. Much of the actual marshland is owned by two private hunting clubs. The boundary of the state land is indicated on Figure 1. There are no facilities at the marsh. Part of the area is diked to provide artificial water control. The marsh can be especially productive for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds and, in some years, marsh birds (rails, herons, etc). Rareties in recent years include Cinnamon Teal, White-faced Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Black, Yellow, and King rails, and Common Moorhen. The habitat fluctuates with changing water level and ranges from numerous pools of open water to vegetation-covered mudflats. The pools at the north end are the deepest and tend to be permanent. The pools at the south end fluctuate more and can provide excellent mudflats in late summer. Other habitats include old fields with a lot of brush, dense willow stands, and a small area of mature timber (mostly burr oak). Atlasing efforts at the marsh and surrounding area yielded 76 species, 70 percent of which are probable or confirmed nesters.

Cone Marsh is an excellent place for group or individual outings and can be birded either by foot or by car. To reach the marsh, drive south from Lone Tree on X-14 (this road becomes G-28 at the Louisa County line) for approximately 6 miles. At this point the paved road turns east, and there is a gravel road to the south. This is the northwest corner of the map in Figure 1. If you are birding in the early morning, it is usually best to continue east on the paved road for another 1.25 miles and then turn south (left) on a gravel road. This allows a tour of the marsh in a clockwise direction with the sun behind you for the first few stops. Drive south along the road approximately 0.75 miles until you can overlook the marsh (#1 on Figure 1). All of this side of the marsh is private property. The old railroad car at the nearby farm has given this spot the colloquial name "caboose." Scoping the marsh from here can be very productive. Many ducks, geese (including sporadic large flocks of Snows and occasional Greater White-fronted), shorebirds, and wading birds may be seen. There is a little drainageway just off the road leading down to the marsh where American Pipits and Common Snipe have been seen.

Continue south to the intersection and turn west. During migration both Lapland and Smith's longspurs are sometimes found in the cultivated fields to the south (#2). Check the other fields in the general area as well. NOTE: these fields are private property, but area farmers have been very cooperative and have allowed hiking, especially in early spring. After a snowstorm, the birds can often be found along gravel roads in the general area.

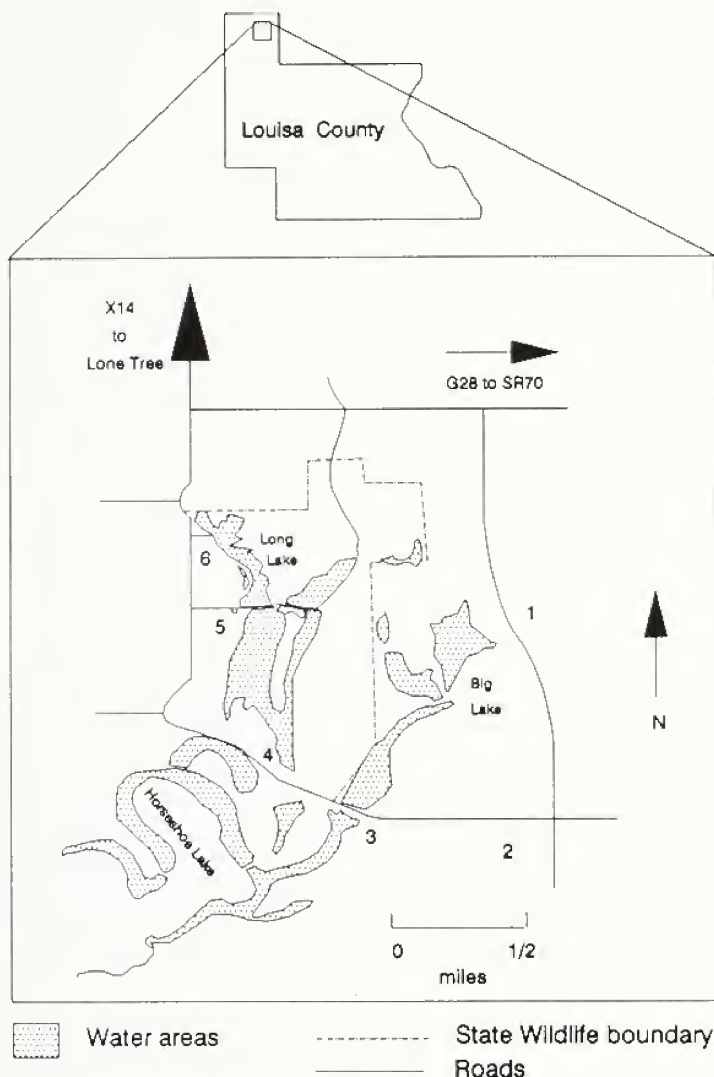


Figure 1. Cone Marsh Wildlife Management Area

Proceed west and you will drive down a slope onto the floodplain. Park along the road (#3) and scan for waterfowl and shorebirds. This is usually a good area for large flocks of Common Snipe (especially to the south), and can yield many other species, including Rusty Blackbirds. However, if a lot of vegetation is present, the birding can be extremely frustrating.

Continue west about 0.3 mile to a small parking lot on the north side of the road (#4) where there is a small dike over the southern part of Long Lake. A path parallels the east side of the lake and connects with the main dike to the north (#5). The path allows some views of the marsh (if the water level is not too high and you can get through the bushes) and is often good for field/shrub birds. There is a low wet area just to the southeast of the parking lot where rails and American Woodcock

occasionally can be found. On the south side of the road at #4 is another oxbow which can be viewed from various points along the road. This is also a very good area to view waterfowl. This area is private property, so do not trespass.

Proceed west on the gravel road to a T-intersection and turn north. Approximately 0.5 mile to the north there is a gravel road to the east which leads to the main dike. Park at the parking lot on the top of the hill. During spring and fall the fields near the parking lot can be good for Fox, Lincoln's, Le Conte's, and Lark sparrows, Brewer's and Rusty blackbirds, an occasional American Woodcock, and even the rare Yellow Rail. A walk along the dike is usually worth the time, especially in spring and early summer (by late summer the weeds are taller than most people). In any season watch out for holes of burrowing mammals in the dike. Waterfowl are usually abundant, Canada Geese nest at the north end of Long Lake, Black-crowned Night Herons can sometimes be seen, both bitterns as well as Sora, Virginia, and King rails can be seen or heard, and other marsh birds such as Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat may be common. There have been several Black Rail sightings in this area as well. Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to nest in the marsh in 1989. The other (east) side of the dike opens into some fields where Bell's Vireo and Willow Flycatchers have nested. Sharp-tailed and Le Conte's sparrows can sometimes be flushed from the grass in this area during spring and fall. The trees along the edge can be good for vireos and warblers during migration.

From the parking lot return to the north-south gravel road and turn north (right). Go about 0.25 mile and turn onto a small gravel road (#6) that leads to a boat launch and parking area. The woods around the area are good during migration for woodpeckers, passerines (including sightings of Worm-eating and Yellow-throated warblers), and occasionally owls (both Barred and Great Horned have nested here). The area along the marsh to the north of the parking lot often produces Soras, but is very wet and difficult to walk. A trail leads to the south from the parking area. Just inside the woods there is a seep area where Winter Wrens are often found in migration. The trail leads to a dike along the edge of a small pool. Wood Ducks are often seen here, and owls sometimes perch on the trees. The trail actually leads to the main dike (#5), but is becoming impassable. The woods west of the pool are fairly open and easy to walk. Displaying woodcock are often seen on the edge of the woods on the west side.

Just north of #6 is a gravel road intersecting from the west. A drive west on this road can be a very productive side trip, with possibilities for ducks, shorebirds, shrikes, bluebirds, and sparrows. Returning to the main loop around Cone Marsh, just north of the T-intersection, there is a nice overlook where a magnificent patch of marsh marigolds blooms in early spring. This area can be good for early waterbirds and usually for Marsh Wren.

As with any marsh area subject to the vagaries of weather patterns, the birding at Cone Marsh can be very good or very poor. Some of the species mentioned as occurring at the stops are rare or uncommon and should not be expected. During extended dry periods such as occurred in 1988-89 the marsh may have little or no water. The area is a state wildlife area and hunting is permitted so fall birding is often not good. A trip to Cone Marsh can be an enjoyable birding experience.

Thanks are due to the members of the Iowa City Bird Club who provided many welcome comments and additions to this article including Bud Gode, Rick Hollis, and Cal and Bernie Knight.

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# DISTRIBUTION OF EASTERN AND WESTERN MEADOWLARKS IN WINNESHIEK COUNTY

KELLY J. HOCHSTETLER, ESTHER L. GARZA, WENDY LOHMANN,  
AND TEX A. SORDAHL

The Eastern and Western meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna* and *S. neglecta*) are considered members of a superspecies (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). As such, they are closely related forms with largely separate ranges, but seem to have attained the true reproductive isolation implied by full species status (Mayr 1963). Morphological similarities make their identification rather difficult (Wilson 1983, Pyle et al. 1987), and hence their distributions difficult to determine. At the same time their similarities and close evolutionary relationship make their distributions biologically interesting.



Lanyon (1956) summarized the evolutionary history of the meadowlarks as follows. The two modern species originated when an ancestral population was split by climatic changes during the Pleistocene. Geographically isolated populations then evolved independently until settlement of North America by the Europeans, when the two meadowlark populations came into contact again. Presumably, the eastern species followed the spread of agriculture westward to the prairie where it encountered the western species. The ranges of the two species now overlap over a broad zone extending from Canada to Mexico.

The dynamic nature of the zone of overlap has been well documented. Lanyon (1956), in a study of available records of meadowlark sightings for 1900 and 1950, demonstrated that the region of overlap had expanded significantly to the north and east throughout the north-central states (Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin). Both Lanyon (1956) and Szijj (1963) attributed the expansion chiefly to the changes in habitat that came with settlement and agriculture. More recent studies have documented a further range expansion to the northeast for the Western Meadowlark (Lanyon 1966, Szijj 1966), and to the west along the rivers of the Great Plains for the Eastern Meadowlark (Rohwer 1972). Thus both species are continuing to expand their ranges, and the region of overlap is widening, especially in its northern section. Despite the increasing amount of interaction occurring between the species, they have thus far been able to maintain distinct gene pools (Szijj 1966, Rising 1983). The ability of females to select conspecific mates is thought to be the primary mechanism maintaining species integrity, with male interspecific territoriality being a secondary factor reinforcing species separation (Lanyon 1966).

Winneshiek County, Iowa, where both meadowlarks are common breeding birds (Dinsmore et al. 1984), provides an excellent place to study the dynamic nature of the zone of overlap. Winneshiek County is located in the region where the eastern deciduous forest meets the prairie. The valleys and bluffs characteristic of the Paleozoic Plateau, which includes this northeastern corner of Iowa, gradually give way to the gentle hills of the Iowan Surface Region (Prior 1976, Dinsmore et al. 1984). The county possessed an original pre-settlement boundary of the forest and prairie (Knutson 1979). It was in areas like this that secondary contact between the two meadowlarks first occurred. In the early 1900s the Western Meadowlark was reported as "rare about Decorah, but becoming more common," and "More common in western portion of Winneshiek County" (C.C. Smith, cited in Anderson 1907).

DuMont (1933) noted that it was increasing in numbers in the northeastern part of the state. More recently, Dinsmore et al. (1984) reported that Western Meadowlarks made up 50-90% of the total meadowlarks in northeastern and east-central Iowa, based on about eight Breeding Bird Survey routes (one of which was in Winneshiek County). In this paper we present a more detailed estimate of the distributions of Eastern and Western meadowlarks in a county where the western species seemingly has increased relative to its eastern counterpart. We believe our data will serve as a benchmark for analyzing changes in this part of the zone of overlap.

## METHODS

We plotted survey routes in each of the 20 political townships on a Winneshiek County Highway and Transportation Map (Iowa Department of Transportation, 1 January 1985), making an effort to avoid towns and busy highways. The average number of miles surveyed in each township was 11.9 (range = 8.1 to 19.0), for a total of 237.1 miles. We completed the routes between 3 April and 26 May 1990. Surveys took an average of 141 minutes (range = 105 to 206), for a total of 46 hours 51 minutes. Data were collected only on days with little wind and no precipitation. The time of day varied for the surveys, and four township surveys required two days to complete. The 24 starting times were distributed as follows: 09:00-11:00, 4; 11:01-13:00, 3; 13:01-15:00, 7; 15:01-17:00, 8; 17:01-19:00, 2. All surveys ended by 19:10.

We conducted a survey by driving the pre-plotted route at 10-15 miles per hour. The vehicle windows were kept open so we could listen for meadowlark songs. Every mile we stopped for 3 minutes to listen for more distant birds. We estimate that on a calm day a singing meadowlark can be heard from about 0.5 miles away. Each bird seen or heard was recorded on a county road map. Care was taken to count each individual only once.

The meadowlark species were identified by voice only. We consulted field guides (Peterson 1980, Scott 1983) and tapes made from the records that accompany them. The Eastern Meadowlark song may be described as two clear, slurred whistles (a drawn out *tee-yah, tee-yair*), and its most common call note as a buzzy *dzrrt*. The Western Meadowlark song is a flutelike, bubbling melody of 7-10 notes, and its most common call note is a low, explosive *chupp*. When we saw a bird, we waited for it to vocalize; if it did not vocalize, we recorded it as an unidentified meadowlark. Because females very rarely sing (Lanyon 1957), our data include mostly singing males, but also those females that gave call notes, and unidentified birds of either sex.

Eastern and Western meadowlark vocalizations have been shown to be consistently distinct throughout the zone of overlap (Lanyon 1966). Both songs and call notes are species-specific (Lanyon 1957), and they provide the best means of identifying these species in the field (Scott 1983, Wilson 1983). However, a word of caution for any survey of these two species comes from a study in Ontario by Szijj (1963). He reported a high incidence (30% in one area) of Western Meadowlarks with Eastern-type vocalizations, either songs or calls or both. Furthermore, he found that hand-raised birds could acquire "alien" call notes (in addition to their own species-specific calls). Lanyon (1957, 1966) also found that a few birds of both species produce vocalizations of the other species. In our study we assumed species fidelity of vocalizations.

## RESULTS

We counted 205 meadowlarks in our study--105 (51.2%) Westerns, 76 (37.1%) Easterns, and 24 (11.7%) unidentified. Their distribution in Winneshiek County, by township, is presented in Figure 1. The 181 identified birds were 58.0% Western and 42.0% Eastern. Of the identified birds, there were proportionately more Western Meadowlarks in the western half of the county than in the eastern half (62.4% vs. 42.5%;  $\chi^2 = 5.07$ , 1 df,  $P < 0.025$ ).

We counted significantly more total meadowlarks in the western half than in the eastern half of the county (156 vs 49;  $\chi^2 = 7.56$ , 1 df,  $P < 0.025$ ). We also averaged more miles surveyed per township in the western half of the county (12.8 vs. 11.0), but the difference was not statistically significant (Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test,  $P > 0.05$ ). The number of birds seen per mile per township was significantly higher in the western half of the county than in the eastern half (means = 1.4 vs. 0.4; Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test,  $P < 0.05$ ). Therefore, the overall meadowlark population was most probably larger in western Winneshiek County.

## DISCUSSION

Our finding of 58% Western Meadowlarks in Winneshiek County is consistent with the estimate by Dinsmore et al. (1984) that they make up 50-90% of the total meadowlark population in northeastern and east-central Iowa. Although the historical record is sparse, the trend noted by C.C. Smith (cited in Anderson 1907) that Western Meadowlarks were rare but becoming more common around Decorah seems to have continued. This trend may reflect habitat alterations, but it also suggests that Winneshiek County is at a boundary within the zone of overlap.

The significantly higher proportion of Western Meadowlarks in the western half of the county can perhaps be explained by the generally accepted idea that the eastern species tends to predominate in the moister habitats (stream valleys, marshy spots, and poorly drained areas) while westerns inhabit the drier upland habitats (Lanyon 1956, Rohwer 1976, Johnsgard 1979, Wilson 1983, Dinsmore et al. 1984). However, it is not unusual to find both species in the same field in our study area. Possibly the two species select different microhabitats within the same field.

Our observation of more meadowlarks in the western half of the county matches our impressions of the overall habitat of the two halves of the county. The western half seemed to have more open grassland, which is the preferred habitat of both species. The eastern half seemed more heavily wooded and, especially in the northeastern corner, exhibited steep river valleys and limestone bluffs. Our general impressions of the habitat are supported by a 1975 aerial photograph series (7.5 Minute Series Orthophotoquad, Decorah Quadrangle, U.S. Geological Survey) and by Knutson's (1979) overlay map of northeastern Iowa showing a 1975 satellite false color infrared photograph that distinguishes forest from grassland.

Our study spanned 54 days. Even though the nesting period of both species' populations would exceed this (Lanyon 1957, Bent 1958, Roseberry and Klimstra 1970, Ehrlich et al. 1988), it might have been desirable to shorten the study period. The timing of our study could have influenced both the total number of birds counted and the relative numbers of the two species. First, singing by the males may have been reduced late in the study period when many would have had active nests, thereby causing us to underestimate the number of meadowlarks in townships surveyed late in the study period. A comparison of survey dates indicates that the western half of the county was surveyed earlier than the eastern half (mean survey dates = 21 April

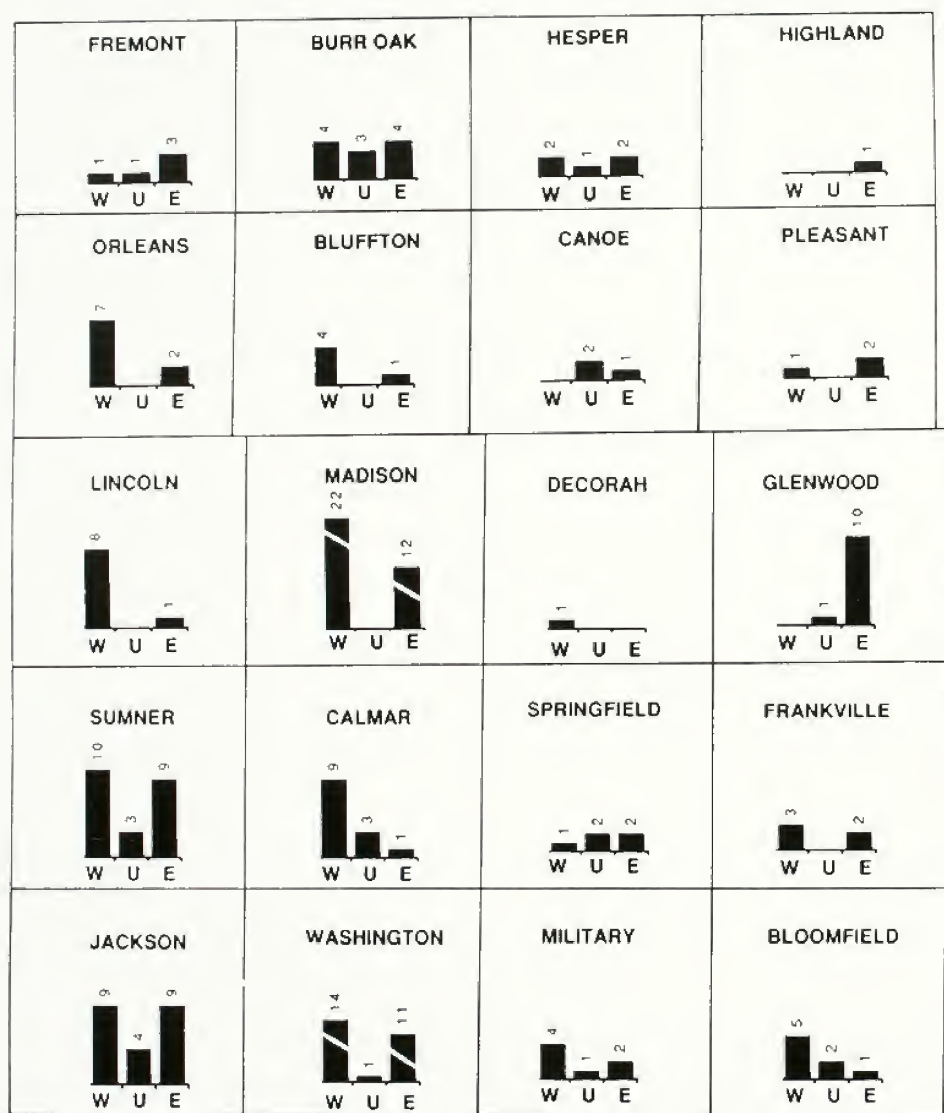


Figure 1. Distribution of Eastern and Western meadowlarks in Winneshiek County. The 20 townships within the county are presented schematically in the figure above. For each township, the number of Western (W), unknown (U), and Eastern (E) meadowlarks that we counted in our surveys is presented graphically with the actual number counted given above each bar.

vs. 13 May; Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test,  $P < 0.01$ ). Second, any differences in breeding phenology between the two species might influence their relative singing activity and bias the ratios we found. We are unaware of any data that indicate species differences in breeding phenology; Lanyon (1957) found no differences in his 4-year study in Wisconsin.

In summary, three basic points about meadowlark distribution in Winneshiek County emerged from our study: (1) the percentages of Western and Eastern meadowlarks were about 58% and 42%, respectively; (2) there were relatively more Western Meadowlarks in the western half than in the eastern half of the county; and (3) there were more meadowlarks overall in the western half of the county.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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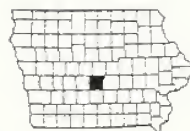
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# RECOVERIES OF DES MOINES BANDED BIRDS

RENE' LAUBACH

Between 1980 and 1983 my wife Christyna and I undertook a small scale bird-banding project. This work took place in Des Moines beginning 21 April 1980 and terminating 6 June 1983. Banding was conducted on a year-round basis. Our suburban residential banding station was located at 1045 63rd Street, near the center of the Des Moines Christmas Bird Count circle. Vegetation at the site included typical ornamental plantings such as *Ailanthus*, elm, white mulberry, black cherry, and privet. Feeding stations were maintained fall through spring.



Nets were generally in operation on weekends from early or mid-morning to dusk and from 0700 to 0815 hours on weekdays, weather permitting. Usually two 12-meter nets were used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 1,060 individuals of 50 species were mist netted and banded with standard U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service aluminum bands. The age and sex of each bird was also determined whenever possible.

Of the 1,060 birds banded, 16 individuals of 8 species were recovered (1.5% recovery rate). American Robin had the most recoveries with five. Common Grackle had four recoveries, Blue Jay had two recoveries, and six other species were represented by one recovery each (Table 1). Other species for which we banded at least 20 individuals but had no recoveries include American Goldfinch (81 banded), Black-capped Chickadee (47 banded), White-throated Sparrow (26 banded), and Gray Catbird (21 banded).

Table 1. Summary of Recovery Data of Birds Banded at a Residential Banding Station in Des Moines, 1980-1983.

Species	No. banded	No. recovered	% recovered
Mourning Dove	27	1	3.7
Downy Woodpecker	32	1	3.1
Northern Flicker	6	1	16.6
Blue Jay	37	2	5.4
American Robin	172	5	2.9
Northern Cardinal	64	1	1.6
Dark-eyed Junco	279	1	0.3
Common Grackle	113	4	3.5
42 other species	330	0	0
totals	1,060	16	1.5

Four birds were recovered beyond the borders of Iowa (Table 2). Eleven other individuals were recovered in Des Moines and one in nearby West Des Moines. Three birds were at least 6 years, 11 months of age when recovered. A Common Grackle banded 31 August 1980 and found dead 29 May 1988 in Des Moines was at least 8 years, 1 month of age. A second Common Grackle banded 19 May 1981 was found

dead in Memphis, Tennessee after a blackbird roost was sprayed on 17 February 1988. The bird was at least 7 years, 10 months of age. A Northern Cardinal banded 25 April 1982 was found dead in West Des Moines on 21 June 1988 at a minimum age of 6 years, 11 months.

Table 2. Banding and Recovery Data for 16 Birds Banded in Des Moines, 1980-1983.

Species	Age at Banding	Sex	Banding Date	Recovery Date	Recovery Location
Mourning Dove	HY	U	25 Dec 1981	1 Jun 1983	Buffalo, MN
Downy Woodpecker	AHY	M	14 Nov 1981	9 Jun 1982	Des Moines
Northern Flicker	HY	U	24 Aug 1981	9 May 1982	Des Moines
Blue Jay	HY	U	20 Jun 1981	30 Jun 1981	Des Moines
Blue Jay	HY	U	12 Jul 1981	4 Sep 1981	Des Moines
American Robin	AHY	F	16 Jul 1980	27 Apr 1982	Des Moines
American Robin	HY	U	16 Sep 1980	2 Dec 1980	Goldanna, LA
American Robin	HY	U	17 Sep 1980	11 Apr 1982	Des Moines
American Robin	AHY	F	29 Mar 1981	16 May 1981	Des Moines
American Robin	AHY	F	21 May 1981	1 Jun 1982	Des Moines
Northern Cardinal	AHY	F	25 Apr 1982	21 Jun 1988	West Des Moines
Dark-eyed Junco	AHY	U	3 Jan 1981	? Mar 1981	Des Moines
Common Grackle	AHY	M	28 Jun 1980	17 Mar 1984	Pine Bluff, AR
Common Grackle	U	U	31 Aug 1980	29 May 1988	Des Moines
Common Grackle	AHY	F	28 Apr 1981	28 Jun 1982	Des Moines
Common Grackle	AHY	F	19 May 1981	17 Feb 1988	Memphis, TN

HY = hatching year, AHY = after hatching year (i.e., at least 1 year old), U = undetermined, M = male, F = female

Of the three individuals recovered south of Iowa, a hatching year American Robin was found dead at Goldanna, Winn County, Louisiana on 2 December 1980, a straight-line distance of 1,105 km. A Common Grackle banded 28 June 1980 was found dead on 17 March 1984 at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a straight-line distance of 871 km. The Common Grackle recovered in Memphis, Tennessee in February 1988 had traveled a straight-line distance of 845 km south southeast of the banding station. The only bird recovered north of Iowa was a hatching year Mourning Dove found dead on 1 June 1983 at Buffalo, Wright County, Minnesota, 411 km from the banding station.

During the project, we also encountered one bird that had been banded elsewhere. A female House Sparrow banded 15 July 1980 when less than one year old was netted by us on 6 December 1980. This bird had been banded on the north side of Des Moines by personnel of the Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Iowa State University.

These data show that despite the low recovery rate associated with banding small birds such as these, with reasonable banding effort some interesting long-distance recoveries and some birds with considerable longevities can be obtained.

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## FIELD REPORTS—FALL 1990

THOMAS H. KENT, JAMES L. FULLER, AND CARL J. BENDORF

### WEATHER

Prior to the fall season, the overall dry pattern of 1989 was completely reversed. The first seven months (January through July 1990) were the wettest in 118 years of Iowa weather records. August was only slightly wetter than normal; however, the rainfall was very unevenly spread across the state. Extensive flooding occurred in northeastern Iowa but western and southern Iowa were quite dry. Totals varied from 12.9 inches in Worth County to only 0.8 inches in Cass County. September was unusually warm, dry, and sunny with temperatures averaging the warmest since 1978. Not since 1953 has a September been this dry overall. The state's first freeze came to northwestern Iowa on the 23rd. October was relatively dry and temperatures were very mild, especially during the first week with afternoon highs in the 80s at many locations. Much cooler air invaded from the 7th to the 15th, and much of Iowa recorded its first freeze on the 10th, about five days later than average. The first significant snowfall occurred on the 17th across the northwestern third of the state. November was relatively warm and slightly above normal in precipitation. Significant snow fell over the northwestern quarter of the state on the 3rd, and more snow was widespread on the 6th with up to 8.5 inches in west-central Iowa.

Table 1. Mean Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal

	Temperature, °F Mean (Deviation)	Precipitation, inches Mean (Deviation)
August	72.3 (+0.2)	4.43 (+0.33)
September	66.7 (+3.2)	1.38 (-2.04)
October	51.0 (-1.7)	1.92 (-0.38)
November	41.7 (+4.5)	1.71 (+0.20)

### GENERAL TRENDS

The residual high water from the summer period produced good habitat for shorebirds, and many lingered late into November setting new record late dates. Warblers were late, with a large influx over the Labor Day weekend, in spite of no major weather front; another wave occurred on the last weekend of September. Waterfowl movement was delayed by the warm, calm weather, but on the weekend of 3-4 November there was a massive influx associated with a slow-moving front. The number of loons was particularly impressive. The ducks quickly moved on after that weekend. There were massive concentrations of Ring-billed Gulls through the end of the period, when few Herring Gulls had arrived yet. Sparrows reached a peak in late September and early October with good numbers and variety.

### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species that were documented included Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Black Rail, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull (an escapee), Mew Gull, California Gull, and Thayer's Gull. Casual species included Ibis

species, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Black-legged Kittiwake, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Great-tailed Grackle. Rare regular species included Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, Varied Thrush, and Smith's Longspur.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented; [] = record date

**Red-throated Loon:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (\*THK, \*JLF, \*CAT, \*AMJ); 1 was at L. Manawa on 12-13 Nov (\*AMJ, \*TEB).

**Pacific Loon:** 1 was at Little Wall L. on 23 Oct (\*SJD); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (\*AMJ).

**Common Loon:** 2 in alternate plumage at High Amana on 8 Aug (LRH) and 2 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Sep (SJD) were unusually early. There was a massive influx of loons on 4 Nov with peaks of 297 at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 230 at Coralville Res. (THK). A few remained to the end of the period.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Peaks were 60 at Cardinal M. on 20 Sep (DC) and 150 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 11 Oct (MCK). The last was 1 on 24 Nov at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Horned Grebe:** The first were 2 at Lock and Dam 15 on 3 Sep (PCP). Peaks were 36 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SJD) and 15 at Coralville Res. on 5 Nov (THK). The last was at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD).

**Red-necked Grebe:** A molting juvenile was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Aug (\*MCK); 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (\*AMJ).

**Eared Grebe:** 1 was at Runnells W.A. on 22 Sep (JSi, SJD), 1 to 4 were at Saylorville Res. on 11, 21, 25, 28 Oct and 11 Nov (SJD, JLF), 1 was at Red Rock Res. on 3 Nov (JLF), and 1 was at Coralville Res. on 11 Nov (RP).

**Western Grebe:** The first was at Saylorville Res. on 18 Oct, and the peak was 5 there on 28 Oct (SJD). Other locations with singles were L. Manawa on 25 Oct (BKP, LJP), L. Anita on 21 Nov (BFH), and Red Rock Res. on 29 Nov (JLF).

**American White Pelican:** This species was present throughout the period with representative concentrations of 75 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 5 Aug (MCK), 300 at Ross P., Page Co., on 29 Aug (Jerry Abma fide BLW), 650 at IPL Ponds on 7 Sep (TEB), 1,650 at Red Rock Res. on 9 Sep (SJD), 4,400 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Sep (SJD), 200 at Coralville Res. on 4 Oct (THK), and 3,500 at Swan W.A., Warren Co., on 6 Oct (AMJ).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** This species was present throughout the period with peaks of 1,800 at Coralville Res. on 28 Sep (THK), 2,000 at Swan W.A. on 13 Oct (AMJ), and 2,600 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Oct (SJD).

**American Bittern:** About 18 birds were reported from eight locations. The first was 1 at Coralville Res. on 8 Sep (THK) and the last was at Tieg's M. on 7 Nov (SJD).

**Least Bittern:** The only report was 1 at Big Wall L. on 6 Oct (SJD).

**Great Blue Heron:** Peaks were 490 at Red Rock Res. on 9 Sep (SJD) and 125 in one field of view at Coralville Res. on 22 Sep (THK).

**Great Egret:** Peaks were 308 at Runnells W.A. on 9 Sep (SJD) and 100 at Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (RP). The last was 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (THK).

**Snowy Egret:** 1 was in Marshall Co. on 5 Aug (MPr) and 2 were seen at High Amana and later at Coralville Res. from 6 to 8 Sep (JLF, THK).

**Little Blue Heron:** The first and last were immatures at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug and 10 Sep (THK). The peak was 55 at Riverton A. on 19 Aug (TEB, BKP). Adults were noted at Coralville Res. on 4 Aug (JLF, THK) and Riverton A. on 25 Aug (JLF). Other immatures included 3 in Appanoose Co. on 11 Aug (RLC), 2 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Aug (PA, RA), and 1 in Sac Co. on 21 Aug (EuA, EIA).

**Cattle Egret:** The only reports were of 1 w. of Knoxville on 27 Aug (AMJ); 10 at Moeckly Prairie, Polk Co., on 3 Sep (PA, RA); and 2 at Thurman on 26 Sep (BKP).

**Green-backed Heron:** The last was 1 on 20 Oct n. of Iowa City (JLF).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The peak was 25 at Riverton A. on 19 Aug (TEB, WRS). The last 1 was at Big Wall L. on 23 Oct (SJD).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Peak count at Riverton A. was 25 on 25, 26 Aug (RLC, DCP). The only others were 1 imm. on 28 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK, details) and 1 at Colo Ponds on 11 Sep (PA, RA, no details).

**Ibis species:** 2 were at Riverton A. on 2 Aug (TEB, WRS) and singles were there on 21 Aug and 13 Sep (CMP); 1 was w. of Huxley, Story Co., on 6-11 Sep (SJD, JJD, MPr, BPr, SJS, \*RIC); 1 was at Willow Sl. on 22 Oct (Dan Cain fide BLW, details)[record latest].

**Tundra Swan:** 60 at Pool 9 on 20 Oct (John Klingman fide SJD) built to 600 on 17 Nov (EuA, EIA). Birds away from this usual location were 1 ad. at Union Slough N.W.R. on 4 Nov (MCK), 6 ad. and 2 imm. at Coralville Res. on 5 Nov (THK), and 1 ad. and 1 imm. at Little Wall L. on 25 Nov (SJD, JJD).

**Mute Swan:** 1 juv. was at Red Rock Res. on 11 Oct (PA, RA) and 19 Oct (JLF).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The first were 50 at Rathbun Res. on 4 Oct (MAH). Other reports were from central Iowa except for 28 at Cardinal M. in NE Iowa on 19 Oct (DC).

**Snow Goose:** 210,000 were at DeSoto N.W.R. on 14 Nov (Erv Klaas fide SJD).

**Ross' Goose:** 1-4 were at various locations in the Missouri River valley except for a remarkable count of 29 at Riverton A. on 20 Nov (SJD). The only others were 7 at Bays Branch on 15 Nov (SJD).

**Canada Goose:** An albino was at Bays Branch on 2 Nov (SJD).

**Wood Duck:** 200 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 19 Nov and 4 remained until 25 Nov (MCK).

**Green-winged Teal:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 2 Sep (THK).

**American Black Duck:** 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (MCK) was unusually early.

**Mallard:** The highest count was 15,000 at Forney L. on 17 Nov (SJD).

**Northern Pintail:** 400 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 23 Oct (MCK).

**Blue-winged Teal:** 400 were at Riverton A. on 19 Aug (TEB); 1 male was late at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SJD).

**Gadwall:** 700 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 23 Oct (MCK).

**American Wigeon:** The first was at Coralville Res. on 8 Sep (THK); 500 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 23 Oct (MCK).

**Canvasback:** 200 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 21 Oct (MCK).

**Redhead:** They were scarce at Union Slough N.W.R. with a peak of 8 (MCK).

**Greater Scaup:** Reports, all of which included details, were of 2 females at Big Creek S.P. on 3 Nov (SJD), 2-4 females at Coralville Res. on 4-5 Nov (AMJ, THK), 3 females at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (SJD), 1 female at Little Wall L. on 25 Nov (SJD), and 1 male near Ames on 29 Nov (SJD).

**Lesser Scaup:** There were two peaks at Saylorville Res. with 4,000 on 24 Oct and 4,500 on 3 Nov (SJD). A large influx of 5,000 at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov dispersed rapidly over the next few days (THK).

**Oidsquaw:** A male was at Ventura M. on 31 Oct (JLW, JBW), and a female was at IPL Ponds on 17 Nov (SJD).

**Black Scoter:** 2 females or immatures. were at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct [2nd earliest], and 1 was there on 28 Oct (SJD).

**Surf Scoter:** 1-5 were at Saylorville Res. from 17 Oct to 10 Nov (SJD, JSi, \*AMJ), 3 females or immatures were at Little Wall L. on 23-25 Oct (SJD, 1 collected), 2 were at IPL Ponds on 27 and 31 Oct (BKP, LJP, TEB), and 1 was at L. Anita on 17 and 21 Nov (PA, RA, BFH).

**White-winged Scoter:** 9 were at Little Wall L. on 23 Oct, 2 of which were collected and 2 remained until 30 Nov (SJD); 3 were at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (THK); and 1 was at L. Anita on 17 and 21 Nov (PA, RA, BFH).

**Common Goldeneye:** The first 2 were at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (JLF).

**Bufflehead:** 2 males were at Saylorville Res. on 23 Sep (SJD)[record earliest except for three summer records]. The peak was 267 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (SJD).

**Hooded Merganser:** Peaks were 27 at L. Ahquabi on 28 Oct (JSi), 70 at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (THK), and 216 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Nov (SJD).

**Common Merganser:** The first were 3 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SJD).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 1 Oct (\*THK)[2nd earliest]. Peaks were 280 at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 50 at Coralville Res. on 11 Nov (RP).

**Ruddy Duck:** The last 2 were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (SJD).

**Turkey Vulture:** The last were 1 in Marion Co. on 3 Nov (JSi) and an injured bird near Pella on 22 Nov (Beth Brown fide SJD).

**Osprey:** 5 were seen in August after the 18th. The last were at Decorah on 1 Nov (DC) and at Saylorville Res. on 4 Nov (SJD).

**Bald Eagle:** 1 imm. was at Red Rock Res. on 1 Aug (AMJ) and others were present throughout the period.

**Northern Harrier:** The first was noted on 5 Sep in Johnson Co. (THK).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1 was noted at A. A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 12 Aug (MCK). Counts included 29 on 29 Sep w. of Luther (SJD) and 61 on 29 Sep, 29 on 30 Sep, and 21 on 7 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr).

**Cooper's Hawk:** 1 was noted at Coralville Res. on 12 Aug (RJH). Peaks were 7 on 24 Sep at Grammer Grove (BPr) and 16 on 30 Sep w. of Luther (SJD).

**Northern Goshawk:** Immatures with details were at Mason City on 16 Sep (JLW, JBW) and w. of Luther on 30 Sep (SJD, ASF). An adult was seen in Mason City on 13 Oct (\*KLP).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Singles were reported from Wildcat Den S.P. on 12 Sep (PCP), Iowa City on 23 Sep (RP), w. of Luther on 28 Sep (SJD, ASF), s. of Polk City on 26 Oct (SJD), and Waukon Junction on 24 Nov (JLF).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 20 were in Kossuth Co. by 12 Aug (MCK). The peak count was 97 at Grammer Grove on 19 Sep (BPr).

**Swainson's Hawk:** 19 were at Waubonsie S.P. on 2 Oct (BKP); others were all singles seen between 21 Sep and 12 Oct in Hardin, Warren, Kossuth, Marshall, Story, and Fremont counties.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** The peak count was 91 in 7 hours on 7 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr). Krider's Hawks were reported from Kossuth Co. on 12 Aug and 11 Nov (MCK). Harlan's Hawks were reported from Kossuth Co. on 21 Oct (MCK) and Polk Co. on 27 Nov (SJD).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 23 Sep (RJH)[3rd earliest]. Another was in Marion Co. on 4 Oct (JLF).

**Golden Eagle:** Immatures were in Grundy Co. on 6 Oct (\*MPr), at Grammer Grove on 18 Oct (\*BPr), and Decatur Co. on 25 Nov (\*PS). At the usual winter location in Allamakee Co., 3 were seen on 17 Nov (EuA, EIA) and 1 was there on 24 Nov (JLF).

**Merlin:** The first was a female or immature w. of Luther on 9 Sep and the last was at Saylorville Res. on 27 Nov (SJD). There were 19 other sightings from widely scattered locations.

**Peregrine Falcon:** The first was in Iowa City on 23 Aug (RP) and the last was an adult in Sioux Co. on 24 Oct (\*JV). There were 13 other sightings from widely scattered areas, not including wing-marked birds near Omaha and at Coralville Res.

**Prairie Falcon:** Singles were in NW Cass Co. on 14 Oct (\*MAP), at Forney L. on 18 Nov and near Thurman on 21 Nov (SJD, details), and in W Sioux Co. on 23 Nov (\*JV). Three other sightings lacked details.

**Gray Partridge:** Southern Iowa reports were 2 at Fairfield on 28 Aug (DCP), 4 near Lamoni in Nov (Harold and Curt Green fide JDG), and 11 in Mills Co. on 30 Nov (BLW).

**Ruffed Grouse:** Birds seen s. of Clarinda in Page Co. were said to have been present in previous years and thought to have come from a resident population in nearby Missouri (John Greenwood fide BLW).

**Yellow Rail:** 1 was at Snake Creek M. on 29 Sep (AMJ, details).

**Black Rail:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee. A secondhand report of another bird had minimal details.

**Virginia Rail:** Singles were at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (JLF, THK) and at Snake Creek M. on 29 Sep and 3 Oct (AMJ).

**Sora:** The peak was 6 at Big Wall L. on 6 Oct and the last was there on 23 Oct (SJD).

**Common Moorhen:** 2 ad. and 3 imm. were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Aug (MCK).

**American Coot:** High counts were 2,300 at Saylorville Res. on 16 Oct (SJD) and 4,000 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Oct (MCK). The last were 5 at Little Wall L. on 29 Nov (SJD).

**Sandhill Crane:** Reports were 3 at Green Island in mid-Aug (Steve Nelson fide JJD), 1 imm. at Big Wall L. on 23 Oct (SJD), and 1 ad. at L. Panorama on 16 Nov (SJD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** The first was 1 on 19 Aug at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). Peaks were 15 at Coralville Res. on 7 Oct (RP) and 14 Oct (THK). The last were 2 at Coralville Res. on 23 Nov (THK)[record latest]. One lingered at Big Creek S.P. until 4 Nov (SJD).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** The first was a molting bird in Cerro Gordo Co. on 28 Aug (JLW, JBW). Peaks of 40 on 22 Sep at Sabula (PCP, BLB) and 55 on 6 Oct in Grundy Co. (MPr) were dwarfed by 700 on 7 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD). The last was 1 on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Semipalmated Plover:** The peak was 9 on 1 Oct at Swan W.A., Marion Co. (AMJ); the last was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Nov (SJD, BE)[3rd latest].

**Piping Plover:** 1 was at IPL Ponds until 26 Aug (m.ob.); 1 was at Rathbun Res. on 26 Aug (JLF); and 1 was at Swan W.A., Warren Co., on 3 Sep (AMJ)[3rd latest].

**American Avocet:** 1 was at IPL Ponds on 25 Aug (m.ob.), 8 were at L. Manawa on 12 Sep (BKP), and 9 were at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (SJD, BE).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The peak of 50 at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov were the last seen there (THK) and 1 was at Clear L. on the same day (JLW, JBW); however, 3 at Saylorville Res. on 27 Nov (SJD) were much later [ties record latest].

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 2 at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 1 at Coralville Res. (THK) on 3 Nov were late, but 1 on 14 Nov at Carlisle (JSi) was even later [3rd latest].

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 3 were late at Runnells W.A. on 6 Oct (AMJ).

**Willet:** The only one was at High Amana on 30 Aug (JLF).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The last was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (SJD).

**Upland Sandpiper:** The last were 9 on 26 Aug in SW Fremont Co. (AMJ); others were from Johnson, Marshall, and Story counties.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Singles were seen from 21 Aug to 19 Sep at High Amana and at Red Rock, Coralville, and Saylorville reservoirs.

**Red Knot:** 1-2 juveniles were w. of Huxley, Story Co., from 3-13 Sep (\*SJD, \*PA, \*JJD, \*MPR, \*BPr, \*TSc).

**Sanderling:** The first were 2 at Coralville Res. on 5 Aug (JLF); the peak was 29 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Sep (PA, RA); and the last were 4 at Saylorville Res. on 6 Nov (SJD).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Late birds were 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (SJD) and 1 in worn juvenal plumage at Coralville Res. on 28 Oct (THK, RP).

**Western Sandpiper:** 1-3 birds, most with supporting details, were reported from eight locations between 5 Aug and 14 Sep., and another in basic plumage was at Coralville Res. on 13 Oct (\*THK)[record latest].

**Least Sandpiper:** The peak of 25 juveniles and adults was at Coralville Res. on 1 Aug (THK); late were 2 at Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (THK) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Nov (SJD, BE).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first were 3 at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug (TEB); the peak was 17 at Red Rock Res. on 3 Sep (AMJ); and the last were 1 at Coralville Res. on 2 Nov (THK) and 1 at Saylorville Res. on 13 Nov (SJD)[3rd latest].

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The peak was 125 in Fremont Co. on 19 Aug (TEB, WRS); late birds were 2 at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (THK), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Nov (SJD), and 6 at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (SJD).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** A juvenile bird was at Coralville Res. on 14 Oct (\*THK, \*JLF, \*RP, \*AMJ, \*CAT).

**Dunlin:** The first and last were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Sep and 24 Nov (SJD); the peak was 140 at Coralville Res. on 14 Oct (THK).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak was 160 at Runnells W.A. on 22 Sep (SJD, JSi); the last were 5 at Coralville Res. on 14 Oct (THK).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** There were many more than usual this year. The first 2 were at IPL Ponds on 25 Aug (JLF). High counts were 20 at Coralville Res. on 7 Sep (JLF), 24 at Runnells W.A. on 9 Sep (JSi), and 33 at Saylorville Res. on 15 Sep (SJD, ASF). The latest was at Saylorville Res. on 18 Oct (\*SJD, also 16 Oct \*AMJ)[record latest].

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The first juvenile was at Coralville Res. on 18 Aug (THK). The peak was 25 on 29 Aug at Swan W.A. (AMJ). Late were 3 juv. w. of Huxley on 18 Sep (SJD)[3rd latest] and 6 juv. that said "tu-tu-tu" at Runnells W.A. on 22 Sep (SJD, JSi)[record latest].

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 2 at Riverton on 26 Aug were in alternate plumage (DCP). Peaks were 41 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 59 on 6 Oct at Runnells W.A. (AMJ), and 30 on 6 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK). Late birds were 2 at Coralville Res. on 4 Nov (THK), 3 with broken legs at IPL Ponds on 13 Nov (DLR, BJR)[ties 3rd latest], and 5 "keeking" juveniles at L. Panorama on 16 Nov (SJD)[2nd latest].

**Common Snipe:** 100 were at Coralville Res. on 14 Oct (THK).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The peak was 11 on 6 Sep w. of Huxley (SJD, JJD) and the last were there on 11 Sep (BPr).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Up to 4 were w. of Huxley from 4 Sep (AMJ) to 13 Sep (JLF); 1 was at Coralville Res. on 8 Sep (THK, JLF).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 1 juv. was at Saylorville Res. on 3 Sep (\*SJD).

**Laughing Gull:** An adult bird in winter plumage at L. Manawa on 9 Sep (\*TEB, \*WRS) was banded above the knee in a manner similar to a bird that had recently flown off from an Omaha zoo (TEB).

**Franklin's Gull:** Large concentrations included 2,000 in Appanoose Co. (RLC, date not given), 14,100 at Saylorville Res. on 29 Sep (SJD), and 2,000 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 18 Oct (MCK). The last were 6 at Saylorville Res. on 25 Nov (SJD).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was 1 at Rathbun Res. on 26 Aug (JLF). Peaks at reservoirs were 200 at Coralville on 11 Nov (RP), 1,130 at Saylorville on 13 Nov (SJD), and 250 at Red Rock on 29 Nov (JLF).

**Mew Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Ring-billed Gull:** A peak of 10,000 was reached at Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SJD).

**California Gull:** 1 adult (or perhaps more than one) was at Saylorville Res. between 8 Sep and 14 Oct (\*SJD, \*JJD, \*PA, \*JLF, \*AMJ, \*TSc, \*MPR). A first-winter bird was at Coralville Res. on 27-29 Oct (\*THK, \*JLF, \*RP, \*CAT, \*CJB).

**Herring Gull:** The first was an adult on 23 Aug at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). There was no large influx during the fall period, with only 33 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov. (SJD).

**Thayer's Gull:** First-winter birds were documented at Keokuk on 6 Nov (\*RIC) and Red Rock Res. on 21 Nov (\*JLF).

**Glaucous Gull:** 1 first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. on 21 Nov (\*JLF)[2nd earliest]; 2 birds were there later in the month.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** First-winter birds were reported at Carter Lake (that little bit of Iowa that should be in Nebraska) on 4 Nov (\*BKP/LJP) at Saylorville Res. on 10 Nov (\*AMJ), and at Hawarden on 23 Nov (\*JV). Two first-winter birds were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (\*SJD). An unusual report of an adult will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Caspian Tern:** The first were 10 at Coralville Res. on 27 Aug (THK). Peaks were 83 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Sep (SJD) and 40 at Coralville Res. on 21 Sep (THK). The last was 1 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SJD)[3rd latest].

**Common Tern:** 1 juvenile was at IPL Ponds on 25 Aug (DCP); all others were from Saylorville Res. from 2 Sep to 11 Oct with a peak of 9 juveniles on 30 Sep (AMJ).

**Forster's Tern:** The peak at Saylorville was 48 on 8 Sep with the last there on 24 Oct (SJD).

**Least Tern:** 1 was at IPL Ponds on 3 Aug (TEB); 2 were at Riverton A. on 20 Aug (CMP).

**Black Tern:** 25 were in Appanoose Co. on 3 Sep (RLC).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1 on 25 Aug in Fremont Co. (RLC) was the only report.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Late birds at Waubonsie S.P. on 6 Oct (BKP, LJP) and in Madison Co. on 10 Oct (EuA) were not very tardy when compared to 1 at Glenwood on 4 Nov (\*DLR)[record latest].

**Barn Owl:** 2 were n. of Perry on 11 Aug (JLF) and 1 was resident on a farm e. of Shenandoah (Dave Tackett fide BLW).

**Snowy Owl:** 1 was s. of Estherville on 22 Nov (Harold White fide EuA).

**Long-eared Owl:** 1 on 18 Oct in Madison Co. (EuA) and 1 on 3 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (SJD) were the only reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** The first were s. of Lamoni on 1 Nov with 15 there on 15 Nov (JDG); 3 were at Tieg's M. on 7 Nov (SJD); and 5 were w. of Iowa City on 29 Nov (JLF).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first was at Wolf Creek P., Grundy Co., on 7 Nov (MPr). Other singles were found in Johnson, Boone, Polk, and Cherokee counties.

**Common Nighthawk:** The peak was 86 in Polk Co. on 8 Sep (SRL), but 40 were still at Algona on 6 Oct (MCK). The last was 1 at Des Moines on 14 Oct (RIC).

**Whip-poor-will:** 1 was still singing at dawn at Coralville Res. on 1 Sep (THK).

**Chimney Swift:** The peak at Fairfield was 4,000 on 21 Sep (DCP). The last were 12 at Glenwood on 11 Oct (DLR).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The peak was 7 at Norwalk on 12 Sep (AMJ). The last was at Sioux Center on 6 Oct (JV).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** This species' disappearance from Effigy Mounds N.M. was attributed to no hickory or oak mast crop (DC). There were only two later reports, and others noticed the disappearance of this species this fall.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 3 were still at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 18 Aug in the area where they nested (DC). Otherwise, the earliest was on 13 Sep at Union Grove S.P. (MPr).

**Northern Flicker:** 34 were in a hay field n. of Indianola on 13 Sep (AMJ); 2 red-shafted birds were in Boone Co. on 5 Nov (SRL).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 on 10 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr) was at the edge of this species' range, while four sightings along the Des Moines River in Kossuth Co. (MCK) seem to indicate a range extension.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first were 5 or 6 on 12 Aug at Coralville Res. (THK, JLF) with a peak of 15 on 1 Sep in Johnson Co. (THK). The last was in Cerro Gordo Co. on 7 Oct (JLW, JBW)[2nd latest].

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 1 on 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK) was the last.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Reports were of single birds from 8 locations from 30 Aug. to 15 Sep.

**Alder Flycatcher:** Singles were identified by call in Marshall Co. on 16 Aug (BPr, MPr) and Warren Co. on 9 Sep (AMJ).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The only report was 1 at Coralville Res. on 1 Sep identified by "whit" note and lack of eye ring (THK).

**Least Flycatcher:** The first was in Kossuth Co. on 11 Aug (MCK) and 5 were near Norwalk on 8 Sep (AMJ).

**Eastern Phoebe:** 1 was at Fairfield on 7 Nov (DCP) [2nd latest except for two winter records].

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** The last were singles on 23 Sep at Saylorville Res. (SJD) and 24 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Western Kingbird:** The only report was of 2 in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 Aug (JLF).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** An adult was at the Wright residence n. of Lovilla from 3 Aug to 16 Oct (\*TSc, \*JLF, m.ob.).

**Purple Martin:** The last at Sioux Center were 4 on 4 Sep (JV).

**Tree Swallow:** Peaks were 460 at Cardinal M. on 20 Sep (DC), 2,000 at Big Creek S.P. on 27 Sep (SJD), 3,500 at Swan W.R. on 13 Oct (AMJ), and 10,000 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. where there were still 500 on 2 Nov (THK).

**Cliff Swallow:** Peaks were 1,200 on 13 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 80 at Cardinal Marsh on 20 Sep (DC).

**Barn Swallow:** 14 were still at Union Slough N.W.R. on 11 Oct (MCK).

**Blue Jay:** Migrant flocks included 200 on 25 Sep at Algona (MCK) and 50 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res. (AMJ).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1 was in Cherokee Co. on 6 Sep (DBi), 3 were at A.A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 20 Sep (MCK), 1 was at Liscomb on 23 Sep (MPR), and 2 were at Ledges S.P. on 29 Sep (AMJ).

**Brown Creeper:** The first was on 30 Sep in Mills Co. (DLR).

**Carolina Wren:** This species has re-established itself in the state after being virtually absent during the early 1980s. Fifteen reports of 1-3 birds from throughout the period were received from all sections including two from the northern row of counties (Winneshek and Kossuth).

**House Wren:** The last was 1 on 13 Oct in Johnson Co. (THK).

**Winter Wren:** 1-4 birds were reported from 12 locations throughout the state from 6 Sep to 15 Oct.

**Sedge Wren:** The only report was 1 in Johnson Co. on 27 Sep (THK).

**Marsh Wren:** 2 were in Lucas Co. on 15 Sep (RLC), 5 were at Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (THK), and the last were 4 on 23 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first was on 25 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The peak of 20 was in Winneshek Co. on 26 Sep (DC).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The first was 1 on 8 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ); 100 were in Kossuth Co. on 25 Sep (MCK).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The last was 1 on 6 Sep at Fairfield (DCP).

**Eastern Bluebird:** 161 fledged from boxes near Auburn this year, slightly up from last year (REE). In Mills Co. 25 were seen on 31 Oct (TEB, BKP).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The only report was 1 in Appanoose Co. on 9 Sep (RLC).

**Swainson's Thrush:** 2 in Appanoose Co. on 9 Sep (RLC) and 1 at Fairfield on 11 Sep (DCP) were the only reports.

**Hermit Thrush:** Three reports described 1-12 birds from 6-10 Oct in central Iowa (MPR, BPR).

**American Robin:** 300 were in a tight flock in Mills Co. on 28 Oct (DLR). The last in Sioux Co. were on 23 Nov (JV). An all white bird was reported from Cerro Gordo Co. on 15 Oct (\*KLP).

**Varied Thrush:** The only fall report was from the Macbride Nature Recreation A. in Johnson Co. on 4 Nov (\*JLF)[3rd earliest].

**Gray Catbird:** November reports were of singles on the 3rd at Norwalk (AMJ), the 10th at Saylorville Res. (JRC), and the 17th at L. Macbride (JLF).

**Northern Mockingbird:** 1 or 2 birds were reported from 3 locations in Johnson Co from 2 Aug to 30 Sep (JLF, RJH, THK); 1 was at Wildcat Den S.P. on 12 Sep (PCP); and 1 was in Madison Co. on 15 Nov (EIA).

**Brown Thrasher:** The last was 1 on 27 Nov at Clive (JRC).

**American Pipit:** 10 reports of 1-60 birds were all from Saylorville, Red Rock, or Coralville reservoirs, with the first on 22 Sep at Runnells W.A. (SJD, JSi), the last on 25 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD), and the peak of 60 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Northern Shrike:** Single birds were reported from Mason City on 26 Oct (JLW, JBW), Big Creek S.P. on 31 Oct (JSi), Kossuth Co. 4 and 17 Nov (MCK), Little Wall L. on 4 Nov (PA, RA), near a Marshalltown feeder on 13 Nov (Betty Savage fide BPR), and from Big Creek S.P. on 17 Nov (DLR, BJR).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** 1-5 were in Johnson Co. during August (RJH, JLF), and 1 was at Snake Creek W.A. on 4 Oct (JLF).

**Bell's Vireo:** 3 or 4 in Fremont Co. on 19 Aug (WRS, TEB), and 1 on 9 Sep in Warren Co. (JSi) were the only reports.

**Solitary Vireo:** The first was 1 on 11 Sep in Winneshek Co.(DC). The peak was 4 at Ledges S.P. on 29 Sep (AMJ). The last was 1 on 7 Oct at Iowa City (THK).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The peak was 4 on 2 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK), and the last was 1 on 28 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Warbling Vireo:** 8 Sep was the peak with 5 in Warren Co. (AMJ); 1 was still in Kossuth Co on 25 Sep (MCK)[3rd latest].

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The last was 1 on 28 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** All reports were from 2-9 September, with a peak of 18 in Appanoose Co. on 9 Sep (RLC).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Ten reports of 1 or 2 birds, with the first in Kossuth Co. on 2 Sep (MCK), and the last on 16 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR).

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first was 1 on 31 Aug in Hardin Co. (MPR); 5 were in Kossuth Co. on 2 Sep (MCK), and 4 were in Johnson Co. on 7 Oct, where 1 was still present on 13 Oct (THK).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first was 1 on 3 Sep at Fairfield (DCP); the peak was 10 at Algona on 25 Sep (MCK); and the last was at Bays Branch on 26 Oct (SJD).

**Nashville Warbler:** The first was 1 on 27 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ). The peak of 20 was at Algona on 25 Sep (MCK). The last was 1 in Johnson Co. on 7 Oct (THK).

**Northern Parula:** Single birds were seen in 6 locations from 1-14 Sep, with a peak of 4 in Appanoose Co. on 9 Sep (RLC).

**Yellow Warbler:** The only report was 1 at Fairfield on 13 Sep (DCP).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 were at Wolf Creek P., Grundy Co., on 30 Aug (MPR); 4 were in Warren Co. on 8 Sep (AMJ).

**Magnolia Warbler:** 6 reports noted 1-5 birds from 31 Aug to 1 Oct.

**Cape May Warbler:** The only report was of 2 at Iowa City on 2 Sep (THK).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** This species was reported at four locations: males were seen in Johnson Co. on 2 and 29 Sep (THK), and females were reported from Johnson Co. on 6 Oct (JLF) and Polk Co. on 11 Oct (JRC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Typically a late migrant, the first was on 15 Sep in Polk Co. (MPR). The peak was 100 in Warren Co. on 6 Oct (AMJ), and 6 were still present at Shimek F. in Lee Co. on 5 Nov (RIC).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1-4 were reported from five locations from 2 Sep to 1 Oct.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 7 were a large number to be so early on 21 Aug at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK). Other reports were 1 in Hardin Co. on 4 Sep (MPR) and 2 in Warren Co. on 10 Sep (AMJ).

**Pine Warbler:** The only report was of 2 described with unstreaked backs in Davenport on 7 Sep (Jim Lewis fide PCP).

**Palm Warbler:** 1 at Snake Creek W.A. on 29 Sep was the only report (AMJ).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** "Warblering" must be great along the Des Moines River in Kossuth Co., as 16 were seen there on 2 Sep (MCK). The first was 1 on 31 Aug in Hardin Co. (MPR), and the last was on 29 Sep at Pony Creek P. in Mills Co. (DLR, BJR).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 4 on 2 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK) was the only report.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** In a tight time frame of 1-6 Sep, 3 reports from different parts of the state described 3-8 birds.

**American Redstart:** 30 were seen in Johnson Co. on 1 Sep (THK); the last was 1 on 26 Sep in Winneshiek Co. (DC).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** The only report was 1 at High Amana on 19 Aug (LRH).

**Ovenbird:** An unusually large number of 11 was seen on 3 Sep at A.A. Call S.P. (MCK). The last was 1 on 24 Sep in Polk Co. (JRC).

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1 on 6 Sep at Wolf Creek P. was the only report (MPR).

**Mourning Warbler:** 1 or 2 were reported from six locations from 31 Aug to 11 Sep.

**Common Yellowthroat:** A male and female were at Coralville Res. on 25 Nov (RP, details)[record latest except for two winter records].

**Wilson's Warbler:** The earliest was 1 on 30 Aug in Grundy Co. (MPR). A peak of 6 on 2 Sep were in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The last was 1 at Fairfield on 11 Sep (DCP).

**Canada Warbler:** The first was 1 on 15 Aug in Marshall Co. (MPR); the last were 2 on 8 Sep in Marshall Co. (MPR) and 2 in Appanoose Co. on 9 Sep (RLC).

**Summer Tanager:** There was only one report; a single bird at Waubonsie S.P. on 21 Aug (TEB, BKP).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Single male birds were seen in 3 separate locations on 20, 27, and 28 Sep. A male with lemon yellow body and black wings and tail was in a backyard n. of Iowa City on 11 Nov (\*JLF)[record latest].

**Blue Grosbeak:** 3 reports were all from their customary western Iowa location in August. One was a male bird still singing in Fremont Co. on 19 Aug (TEB, WRS). Others were in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 Aug (DCP) and Crawford Co. on 26 Aug (MCK).

**Indigo Bunting:** The last were 2 at Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (THK), 6 young birds that were possibly a late brood in Mills Co. on 30 Sep (DLR), and a young bird at a bird bath in Boone Co. on 6 Oct. (SRL).

**Dickcissel:** 12 were seen in Fremont Co. on 25 Aug (RLC). A female was trapped in Story Co. on 23 Oct (Bret Geisler fide JJD).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** Late fall sightings of this bird in Iowa are often of the spotted or western race. All three reports describe single birds of that race, and were 19 Oct at Sioux Center (Tina Van Dyk fide JV), 28 Oct at Fairfield (DCP), and 13 Nov at Cardinal Marsh (DC).

**American Tree Sparrow:** 1 was at Fairfield on 11 Oct (DCP).

**Chipping Sparrow:** Young birds were still in a nest in Boone Co. on 15 Sep. The last were 3 in a farmyard in Johnson Co. on 2 Nov (THK) and 1 on 11 Nov at a feeder in Johnson Co. (RJH, details).

**Field Sparrow:** The last was 1 on 4 Nov at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 24 were feeding in a harvested bean field near Bays Branch on 3 Oct (AMJ), and 12 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 11 Oct (MCK).

**Savannah Sparrow:** A peak of 50 on 11 Oct were at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); 9 were in Cass Co. on 20 Oct (MAP). The last were 6 on 2 Nov at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** This species is usually found if looked for in the right habitat in late September and early October. It appears that more people are finding them as there were 9 reports of 1-18 birds. The first were 4 on 24 Sep at Snake Creek W.A. (EIA, EuA). The peak was 18 at Snake Creek W.A. on 29 Sep (AMJ). The last were 5 on 14 Oct at Saylorville Res. (JRC).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** This is another bird that can be found by looking in the right place at the right time. Again there were 9 reports of 1-12 birds. The first were 2 at Snake Creek W.A. on 24 Sep (EIA, EuA). The peak was 12 on 27 and 29 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK, JLF). The last were 3 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Fox Sparrow:** The first report was of 1 bird on 27 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK)[3rd earliest].

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 10 reports noted 1-4 birds from throughout the state, with the first on 25 Sep at Algona (MCK) and the last on 21 Oct in Johnson Co. (RP).

**Swamp Sparrow:** A peak of 100 on 29 Sep were at Snake Creek W.A. (AMJ).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The first was on 16 Sep in Warren Co. (AMJ); the peak of 40 was on 13 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Two reports of 2 birds each were both on 29 Sep from Greene Co. (AMJ) and Grundy Co. (MPR).

**Harris' Sparrow:** The first was 1 east of its range at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (JLF). A large flock at Auburn on 1 Oct was reduced to 12 birds by the end of the period (REE).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The first was 1 on 23 Sep at Algona (MCK).

**Lapland Longspur:** 1 was at Coralville Res. on 1 Oct (\*THK)[2nd earliest]. Flocks included 150 at Big Wall L. on 23 Oct (SJD), 1,200 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Oct (MCK), 200 in Grundy Co. on 4 Nov (MPR), 1,000 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 25 Nov (MCK), and 100 in Sioux Co. on 30 Nov (JV).

**Smith's Longspur:** There are no recent fall records of this species in Iowa, so a documented report will be referred to the Records Committee. Another undocumented report was received.

**Snow Bunting:** 1 was at Saylorville Res. on 20 Oct (JLF, details)[ties record earliest]. Others were 2 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res. (MPR), 10 at Otter Creek M. on 10 Nov (MPR), 2 at Coralville Res. on 22 Nov (THK), and 19 at Red Rock Res. on 29 Nov (JLF).

**Western Meadowlark:** 1 was still singing at Fairfield on 7 Oct (DCP), and 18 were in Boone Co. on 8 Nov (SRL).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 female on 8 Aug was the last of the birds that summered at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (THK). Single males were at Big Wall L. on 7 Oct (SJD) and Union Slough N.W.R. on 10 Oct (MCK). The last were 11 males on 31 Oct at Clear L. (JLW, JBW).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The first were 2 on 13 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK). Large flocks were 110 at Big Wall L. on 23 Oct (SJD) and 250 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 20 Nov (MCK).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** 1 male was seen entering a roost with Common Grackles at Ames on 25 Sep (SJD); 1 male and 3 females were at Forney L. on 19 Nov (SJD)[3rd latest].

**Common Grackle:** A flock of 5,000 was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 21 Oct (MCK), and 1 was still at Sioux Center on 29 Nov (JV).

**Purple Finch:** The first were 2 on 16 Sep at Saylorville Res (SJD); 12 were at Cardinal M. on 20 Nov (DC).

**House Finch:** Reported as a permanent resident now in Sioux Co. (JV). Numbers were thought to be down this year at Indianola (JSi).

**Red Crossbill:** 10 were n. of Centerville on 25 Oct (MAH), 30 were at Ames on 27 Oct (JJD), 11 were at L. Panorama in Guthrie Co. 16 Nov (SJD), and 4 were at Wolf Creek P. in Grundy Co. on 21 Nov (MPR).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 1 was in Ames on 1 Oct (Erv Klaas fide SJD), 1 was seen at Jester Park on 31 Oct (JSi) and 2 Nov (EIA, EuA, JSi), and 4 females and immatures were at Mason City on 20 Nov (JLW, JBW).

**Common Redpoll:** Single birds were at feeders on 27 Nov at Algona (MCK) and at Sioux Center (JV).

**Pine Siskin:** No large flocks were reported, with the most being 12 at Algona on 12 Oct (MCK). The first was 1 on 16 Sep in Fremont Co. (DLR, BJR).

**American Goldfinch:** 3 fledglings were still being fed by an adult on 15 Oct at Algona (MCK).

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only report was 1 on 11 Nov near Guthrie Center (Jon Judson fide SJD).

## CONTRIBUTORS

\* = documentation only

Pam Allen (West Des Moines); Reid Allen (West Des Moines); Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); \*Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); Tanya E. Bray (Bellevue, NE); Dennis Carter (Decorah); Robert I. Cecil (Des Moines); Jane R. Clark (Clive); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Stephen J. Dinsmore (Ames); Rita E. Efta (Auburn); James L. Fuller (Iowa City); J. Donald Gillaspey (Lamoni); Lanny R. Haldy (Amana); Marjorie A. Heusinkveld (Centerville); Richard J. Hollis (Iowa City); Bill F. Huser (South Sioux City, NE); Ann M. Johnson (Norwalk); Matthew C. Kenne (Algona); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); Sharon R. Laub (Rippey); \*Kenneth Lowder (Iowa City); \*Darwin D. Mosman (Elkhart); Babs K. Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Loren J. Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Marietta A. Petersen (Walnut); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); Randy Pinkston (Iowa City); \*Kim L. Pinneke (Mason City); Diane C. Porter (Fairfield); Carl M. Priebe (Sidney); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); Douglas L. Rose (Glenwood); \*Tim Schantz (Knoxville); \*Pat Schlarbaum (Boone); \*W. Ross Silcock (Tabor); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Susan J. Spieker (Norwalk); \*Carol A. Thompson (Iowa City); John Van Dyk (Sioux Center); Jan L. Walter (Mason City); and Barbara L. Wilson (Hastings).

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Brian L. Blevins (Davenport); Bery Engebretsen (Johnston); Andrew S. Fix (Ames); Willis M. Heusinkveld (Centerville); B.J. Rose (Omaha, NE); and Jim B. Walter (Mason City).

## COMMENT

The database for the fall report included 1,260 records from 46 contributors. There were 70 documentations of 40 birds representing 36 different species. Three reports that were received well after the deadline could not be included.

Coverage of Iowa's reservoirs continues to increase and provides very good information on the movement of birds through Iowa in fall, especially non-passerines. More and more observers are providing high counts and early and late dates. Evidence of increased "hawk watching" was provided by numbers seen over a period of hours at various locations. The database provides a less clear picture of passerine movements, but this year several peaks seemed to occur over weekends when observers were out. Our best water areas appeared to get monitored during the week, but passerine habitat is much better covered on weekends based on the data submitted.

The most striking change in fall birding in Iowa over the last 10 years has been the increase in gulls and number of unusual gulls that have been picked out of the large concentrations. The increased coverage of water areas has also documented the regular occurrence of all three scoters.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246  
16 Longview Knoll, RR 6, Iowa City, IA 52240  
845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245

## BLACK RAIL IN DICKINSON COUNTY

JAMES L. HANSEN

On 8 October 1989, my 14-year-old son, Jeffrey, and I were duck hunting on a restored wetland on the 142-acre McBreen Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Dickinson County, about 4 miles northwest of the city of Spirit Lake. The wetland we were on, in the north-central part of the area, had 10-20 yards of mudflats around the edge due to the summer's drought, and three round clumps of river bulrush at the south end.



After a few hours of duck hunting and bird watching, we began walking around the edge of the marsh to try to flush a Common Snipe. As we returned to the south end, at 11:15 a.m., I saw a small, dark bird standing on a mudflat about 3 feet from a river bulrush clump. It was black and about 4 or 5 inches tall, and it ran into the clump when I was about 40 yards from it. I suspected right away that it was a Black Rail, even though I had never seen one before. I walked into the clump and saw the bird again at a distance of about 25 feet as it ran about 10 feet from one clump to another. I again walked into a clump and saw it a third time at about the same distance as it ran to another clump. My son saw the bird the last two times, but not the first time.

The last two times I distinctly saw a 4- or 5-inch long black bird with a short neck, long legs, and a rusty or chestnut patch on its back. Because it moved quickly, I was unable to note details of the bill, eye, or other coloration. Before I told my son anything about what I had noted, I asked him what he saw, and he said it was black with rust-color on it. It did not vocalize, and the bird never flew. All sightings were with the unaided eye, and the last two were with the sun behind us.

The status of the Black Rail in Iowa is not well known. There are only a few accepted records of the species in Iowa (see Dinsmore, Kent, Koenig, Petersen, and Roosa, 1984, *Iowa Birds*, Iowa State Univ. Press, pp. 121-122) with the most recent one in May 1989 in Cerro Gordo County. Among the records are one on 5 October 1962 in Plymouth County and another on 1 October 1925 at Sigourney. Thus this bird is the latest fall date for the species in Iowa. On that late date it seems likely the bird was migrating through from some unknown area.

McBreen Marsh Wildlife Management Area, with its 40 acres of restored wetlands on 142 acres, was made possible by the joint effort of Ducks Unlimited and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This area was the first Ducks Unlimited Major Donor Project in the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Five private donors each contributed \$10,000 to purchase the area, with other DU funds paying the remaining \$5,000. Iowa DNR personnel then carried out the wetland restoration work and other management.

Since 1987 the various cooperating agencies and individuals in Iowa have restored at least 716 wetlands totalling more than 3,100 acres as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These restored wetlands should be of interest to birders, and the restoration program deserves their support, because the wetlands provide habitat to a variety of species of wildlife.

2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105

## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### FALL BUSINESS MEETING

*Council Bluffs, 25 August 1990, 3:00-4:10 p.m.*

HILDA SICKELS, SECRETARY

Presiding: Jim Dinsmore, President

Minutes of the spring 1990 meeting were accepted as printed (Rick Hollis, seconded by Bud Gode).

#### Reports

Treasurer: Copies of the report were distributed. Livermore reported that a \$25,000 C.D. had matured.

Two new C.D.'s were purchased, one for \$3,000 and the other for \$20,000. The other \$2,000 was transferred to the checking account. Membership renewals will be mailed in October; dues have been raised to \$15 for regular membership.

Publications Committee: The committee will meet today.

Records Committee: Bendorf reported that the committee is actively reviewing 1989 and 1990 records.

Membership Committee: Sinclair reported that the membership stood at 530. A new membership brochure is being prepared.

Nominating Committee: A committee consisting of Beth Proescholdt (chair), Francis Moore, and Bob Myers has been appointed to nominate candidates for President, Vice President, and three board positions for the spring 1991 elections.

Breeding Bird Atlas Committee: Carol Thompson reported that field work on the project is nearly complete. She thanked members who had participated and appealed to all to turn in their atlas cards.

Big Day Committee: They will present their report at the dinner.

Education Committee: They are still working on the booklet and will be meeting today.

#### Old Business

A total of 64 I.O.U. members attended the Tri-state meeting in LaCrosse. Excess monies from that meeting were distributed proportionately to the three states; the I.O.U. received \$291.60 which will be put in the meeting fund.

#### New Business

The spring 1991 meeting will be held in Waterloo on 17-19 May. Francis Moore is in charge of arrangements.

There is interest in having the fall 1991 meeting in Indianola. Ann Johnson and Jim Sinclair are preparing a bid for the meeting. There is interest in having the spring 1992 meeting in the Cedar Rapids area.

A fall field trip at Saylorville is being planned. More details will appear in the newsletter. A planned trip to Union Slough was cancelled due to heavy rains.

A formal note of thanks was expressed to Tom Kent for his excellent work as editor of Iowa Bird Life the past four years. A document of thanks for members to sign was circulated.

Bob Cecil and Barb Wilson were thanked for their work in making arrangements for this meeting and to all others who helped out in other ways.

#### Announcements

Dinsmore noted that former President and longtime I.O.U. member Judge Charles Ayres died earlier this summer. Charter I.O.U. member Fred Pierce still resides in Winthrop and enjoys visits from birders. Other announcements included concern about the Spotted Owl in the Pacific Northwest (Diane Porter), National Birdline Hotline Cooperative (Jim Hansen), and upcoming meetings in

Iowa on habitat fragmentation (Dubuque) and urban birds (Cedar Rapids). Members were reminded of the need for contributions to the Iowa Birdline fund.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Council Bluffs, 25 August 1990 11:00 a.m.-12:05 p.m.*

HILDA SICKELS, SECRETARY

Members present: Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Eloise Armstrong, Rick Hollis, Wayne Livemore, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, Hilda Sickels, and Carol Thompson.

### Reports

Minutes of the spring board meeting were approved (motion by Porter, Proescholdt second) as distributed.

Treasurer: The transfer of office from Francis Moore to Wayne Livemore is progressing smoothly.

All accounts will continue in a Norwest bank in Cedar Falls. Livemore can conduct business at a branch bank in Sioux City. One \$25,000 CD has matured; \$2,000 of that was transferred to the checking account to meet current expenses. The remainder was divided into a 12-month CD (\$20,000) at 7.75% and a 3-month CD (\$3,000). We currently have 530 members. The Iowa birdline needs contributions and the membership will be asked to contribute.

Records Committee: The records committee met in July and is working on the backlog of material from 1989. It will be working on 1990 records soon.

Publications Committee: They will meet this afternoon.

Education Committee: The booklet is progressing. The committee is seeking permission to reprint other published materials.

Membership Committee: A revised membership brochure is being prepared.

Big Day Committee: They will present their report at the banquet.

Nominating Committee: Dinsmore appointed the following committee: Beth Proescholdt (chair), Francis Moore, and Bob Myers. They will prepare a slate of President, Vice President, and three board members for the spring 1991 elections.

Bird Atlas Committee: Field work went smoothly this summer. Members were asked to turn in all atlas cards.

### Old Business

Attendance at the Tri-state meeting in LaCrosse was: Iowa-64, Minnesota-60, and Wisconsin-195 for a total of 319. Surplus funds were divided up proportionally with the I.O.U. receiving \$291.20.

This was placed in our meeting fund.

### New Business

Dennis Carter has been nominated to the Publications Committee for a term expiring in 1995. Porter moved (Carol Thompson second) that this nomination be approved. Motion carried.

A formal note of thanks to Tom Kent for his service as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* was circulated for board members to sign.

Future meetings: The spring 1991 meeting will be held in Waterloo. A group from Indianola indicated an interest in hosting the fall 1991 meeting. They will prepare a formal invitation. There is interest in having the spring 1992 meeting in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area.

### Announcements

Dues notices will be mailed in late October. *Iowa Bird Life* will be coming out again in October. Rick Hollis provided information on two upcoming meetings. The possibility of publishing a membership directory, having I.O.U. pins, and preparing an I.O.U. display were discussed. The next board meeting was tentatively scheduled for the day of the fall field trip at Saylorville (3 November). The meeting adjourned at 12:05.



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